AVA Conference Will Feature Talks and Study on IV Connector

*Transplant Unit Saw Big Drop in Bloodstream Infection Rate*

NASHVILLE – A transplant unit’s success in reducing potentially deadly catheter-related bloodstream infections (CRBSI) with a novel IV connector will be the subject of a poster presentation at the upcoming Association for Vascular Access (AVA) conference.

The connector, InVision-Plus CS® with Chlorhexidine+Silver Ion Engineering from RyMed Technologies, has a septum impregnated with chlorhexidine and silver ions. The chlorhexidine-silver combination has been shown to be more effective at killing pathogens than connectors with silver alone\(^1\).\(^2\)

RyMed technology will also be discussed in two educational sessions at the conference, Sept. 20-23 in Nashville.

An AVA-sponsored breakout session will educate clinicians on how they can assess new products based on their patients’ needs and published evidence. The session, titled “The Impact of Disinfection Technology on Product Design and Patient Outcomes,” will discuss both traditional and newer disinfectant technologies.

Speakers for the session will be Paul L. Blackburn, BSN, MNA, RN, VA-BC; and Denise Macklin, BSN, RNC, VA-BC. It will take place Monday, Sept. 23\(^{rd}\) from 8:45 a.m. to 9:15 a.m. in the Hermitage B room, and will be repeated from 10:05 a.m. to 10:35 a.m. that day in the same room.

A separate Platinum Showcase session titled “What Makes a Masterpiece?” will describe the Healthcare And Technology Synergy (HATS) framework for clinical research, which considers – besides the usual elements of patient and practice -- the impact of medical technology on healthcare practice and patient outcomes.
As an example, the presenters will describe a study involving an IV needleless connector (InVision-Plus®) that was associated with improved patient outcomes and reduced CRBSIs.

Speakers for the session will be Blackburn, Macklin and Cynthia Chernecky, PhD., RN, AOCN, FAAN. The session is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 21st from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Cheekwood GH room.

The CRBSI poster describes how University of Louisville Hospital in Louisville, Ky. improved patient safety in its Bone Marrow Transplant Unit after discovering that its bloodstream infection rate was higher than in other units. The patients were unusually vulnerable to infections, partly because their immune systems were ablated prior to transplantation and their quad-lumen central lines provided multiple pathways for bacterial ingress.

The hospital took multiple steps to lower the patients’ infection risk including implementation of InVision-Plus CS in August 2012. In the first three months of using the connector, the unit’s BSI rate dropped by 82% and was well below the national benchmark.

AVA’s Annual Scientific Meeting will be Sept. 20-23 in Nashville, Tenn. RyMed Technologies will be at Booth 721 in the Ryman B1-B3 Exhibit Halls of Gaylord Opryland.


Resources:

Video:

*Infection Rates Drop at Major Cancer Center

Text:

*Description of a large study that showed a statistically significant decrease in central line-associated bloodstream infection rates when either negative or positive IV needleless connectors were replaced with a zero displacement IV needleless connector (InVision-Plus) in multiple acute care settings.

*Article by William Jarvis, M.D., on design features of IV needleless connectors that are important for preventing CRBSIs.
About RyMed Technologies, Inc.

Founded in 1994, RyMed Technologies, Inc. specializes in the development and marketing of innovative safety products in the field of intravenous catheter care management. The company's products are designed to help reduce catheter occlusions, catheter-related bloodstream infections, and biofilm development commonly associated with vascular access devices. More than 10 years of research and development have gone into the InVision-Plus product line. Numerous studies regarding the efficacy of the InVision-Plus Needleless IV Connector have been published in the last six years -- which is particularly important in light of the growing incidence of CRBSIs.

The company is headquartered in Franklin, Tenn. For more information, access www.rymedtech.com or call (615) 790-8093.

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